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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY POWELL'S BEIJING
TRIP AND U.S. POLICY

A) "[Taiwan Must] Calmly Face the Reality Before It
Hits the Road Again"

The centrist, pro-status quo "China Times"
editorialized (10/28):

". For Washington, it is in the overall interests of the United States to keep Taiwan in a position that can restrain China, create bargaining chips for U.S.-China negotiations and at the same time not really trigger a war in the Taiwan Strait. Washington does not want Taiwan to stand in its way in areas where it wants to develop relations with China - such as trade markets. But it needs Taiwan to block Beijing when it comes to areas where it wants to overpower China - such as [China's] military hegemonic power. Taiwan's position or value lies in playing the part of accommodating [party in] the United States' great strategy toward China. Whenever there is a major conflict between the United States and China, the unprotected Taiwan can get support from the United States, but the room for Taiwan will be squeezed when conflicts between the United States and China are reduced or when they share the same interests. Thus, chances are higher that [Secretary of State Colin] misspoke regarding 'peaceful unification' because Washington has no need to reduce the room in which it moves around in with its policy and 'peaceful resolution' would provide more bargaining chips for the United States.

"Even so, Powell still did deal a heavy blow [to Taiwan]. Recently, Washington has repeatedly warned and stated that it does not support Taiwan independence. Powell's remarks months ago which said that a resolution to the issue must be accepted by both sides of the Taiwan Strait was a new approach to further illustrate that [the United States] does not support Taiwan independence, which has also become one of the keynotes of U.S. policy. .

". After the DPP came into power, it strived to rebuild foreign and cross-Strait policies that are politically correct and closely related to Taiwan's national identity. . Also, some high-ranking Taiwan officials have tried to use the island's foreign relations as a campaign tool and turned the United States' goodwill and support into their personal campaign resources. A series of rash behavior, remarks and provocative acts by Taipei, including the referendum, have not only undermined the long-standing trust between Taiwan and the United States but have also turned Taiwan into a variable that threatens U.S. interests.

"The United States will not be afraid to take 'preventive' action in the face of any threat that could endanger its national interests. The support that Washington gives Taipei is not so great as to the extent that it would sacrifice its soldiers for Taiwan. If Taiwan works and waits patiently, maybe it could create a new status for itself in the international community. But Taiwan made an early move to challenge the United States' one-China policy before the international climate matures, so it got slapped in the face by the United States. .

"The United States has repeatedly urged both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resume dialogue. It would be more appropriate to say that Washington's purpose is to reduce cross-Strait tension rather than just push for talks across the Taiwan Strait. The mistrust of the United States, the saber rattling of China and the indifference of the international community are the reality that Taiwan must face calmly and bravely. ."

B) "The Real Connotation of Washington's One China Policy"

Shao Chung-hai, a professor at National Chengchi University's Sun Yat-sen Institute, said in an op-ed piece in the centrist, pro-status quo "China Times"

(10/28):

"If this [i.e. what Secretary Powell said and what State Department Spokesman Erelí later clarified] is the U.S. government's long-standing policy toward Taiwan's status, Powell's remarks have clearly indicated the real connotation of Washington's one-China policy - namely, the meaning of 'one China' remains ambiguous, but [Washington's position] toward Taiwan's status is moving toward clarity. .

"Taipei was shocked [by Powell's remarks] partly because Washington did not mention in its earlier briefing to Taipei that Powell would speak in such a direct and candid manner. It is also because Taipei had overlooked Powell's trip, thinking that he would soon leave his current position and he would not talk about any substantive issues when he visited Beijing. But what is more important is that Taipei, for a long time, has been trying to interpret the direction of Washington's Taiwan policy from its own position, arbitrarily judging that Washington's attempt to create ambiguity for its cross-strait policy in the past was [meant] to create a background for Taiwan to split from mainland China. The DPP government . especially misinterpreted the United States' position that neither side of the Taiwan Strait should unilaterally change the status quo as silent recognition the 'fact' of an independent Taiwan. ."

C) "Taiwan Independence Is a Mere Illusion"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" said in an editorial (10/28):

". Powell's comment departed from the usual U.S. practice of calling on both sides to settle their differences peacefully via dialogue and of avoiding taking any stance on what the resolution should be. .

"Two factors contributed to the apparent shift in U.S. policy. For one thing, the U.S. needs the help of Beijing in implementing its anti-terrorist mission, especially in dealing with North Korea, which President George W. Bush once described as the 'Axis of Evil' along with Iran and Iraq.

"Another factor is the DPP government and its allies' aggressive push for independence. Apparently, the U.S. government believes Taiwan's movement toward statehood has made the Taiwan Strait more treacherous than ever before.

"The independence activists' attempt to separate Taiwan from the mainland permanently has produced just the opposite effect. Their pursuit, ironically, is making the outlook for Chinese reunification brighter."

D) "Powell Should Not Withhold Reorganization of the Fact that 'Taiwan Is an Independent Sovereign State'"

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" commented in an editorial (10/28):

". When we looked back at the contents of the United States' cross-strait policy, they all focused on 'peaceful dialogue,' 'respect for the will of the Taiwan people,' and 'maintaining the status quo.' Judged from these contents, [we know that] even Powell misspoke, the focus of his meeting with the Chinese leaders still centered on 'urging both sides to resume dialogue' 'opposition to any unilateral attempt the change the status quo,' and 'firm commitment to arms sales to Taiwan.' Just as noted in the clarifications by the State Department and AIT, the United States' Taiwan policy remains unchanged. However, even though Powell's inappropriate remarks were a slip of the tongue, which were later clarified by U.S. officials, Powell's remarks have undeniably deviated from the historical reality and seriously harmed Taiwan's interests as well as the feelings of the 23 million Taiwan people. As a result, Taiwan people must ask the United States to make a powerful clarification and commitment, and Powell must also apologize to the Taiwan people in public. ."

E) "Powell's Misspeaking Alerts Taiwan People to Quickly Become a 'Normal Country' through the Process of Instituting a New Constitution"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" said in an editorial (10/28):

". But in our eyes, Powell's statements that 'Taiwan is not independent' and 'does not enjoy sovereignty as a nation' have actually underscored the necessity and

urgency for Taiwan to become a 'normal country' through the process of public self-determination to rectify Taiwan's name and institute a new constitution. ."

F) "K.M. Koo: I Do Not Believe That 'Peaceful Unification' Is the U.S. Policy"

Senior Presidential Advisor K.M. Koo said in an exclusive interview with the pro-independence "Liberty Times" presented as a commentary (10/28):

"Senior Presidential Advisor K.M. Koo said in an exclusive interview with this newspaper that the reason why both sides of the Taiwan Strait have failed to resume a dialogue is because China has done a good job in pressuring Taiwan through the United States. China will not sit down to talk with Taiwan as long as the United States continues implementing its one-China policy. China's turning down [the offers] as proposed by both President Chen and Secretary Powell are the best examples. Unless the United States gives up the role to speak for China, chances will be slim for both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resume talks. .

". Koo said Powell did seem 'very calm and composed' when he talked about 'peaceful unification.' But Taiwan's strategic importance in Asia will not be affected by the remarks of a government, a certain political party, or a secretary of state. It will be a very dangerous idea if 'unification' is what Powell has in mind.

"According to Koo, 'unification' would mean giving up on Taiwan, an idea which is by no means in the United States' interests. Also, if Taiwan becomes part of China, it will have a great impact on the peace in Asia, which was established in the wake of the Second World War. China's basic idea is to drive the U.S. influence out of Asia and establish its leading role in the region. But this will certainly trigger resistance from both Japan and Korea. As a result, Koo said he will never believe that 'peaceful unification' will become the U.S. policy. ."

G) "The Wake-up Call in Powell's Words"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" editorialized (10/28):

". Naturally, the most likely possibility is precisely that Powell, who is evidently not very familiar with the intricacies of Taiwan's 'China problem' or China's 'Taiwan problem,' did indeed make verbal errors without prior malice or forethought. .

"While we can welcome the clarifications, we should not neglect preparations for alternatives.

"For example, there remains a possibility that Powell and the U.S. State Department or even President George W. Bush are playing a 'bad cop, good cop' routine with both Taipei and Beijing.

"While the goal of the U.S. secretary of state may be to maintain stability, his initiative may breed even more tension.

"Indeed, Powell's strident defense of 'our one-China policy,' a posture which is quite distinct from Beijing's 'one-China principle,' cannot hide the fact that its foundations have been gravely eroded by Taiwan's democratization and emergence as a 'subject' in the triangular relationship and by the PRC's own economic and military rise.

"Unfortunately, instead of compelling Beijing to accept the fact of Taiwan's actual-existing sovereignty, the U.S. secretary of state's clumsy intervention has set back progress by fostering both anger in Taiwan and unrealistic expectations in Beijing that any government in Washington may be able to make the problem of facing up to the reality of Taiwan's 'people-based sovereignty' wither away. .

"In a sense, Powell may have done Taiwan a backhanded favor by reminding us of the need to cultivate a far broader base of support in global public support to buttress the genuine 'enjoyment' of sovereignty by Taiwan's people and thus ease our security dependence on the United States. .

"Truly, the best way to help ourselves is to help others help themselves. In order to lay the foundations for its own sustainability and lasting autonomy, a democratic Taiwan should boldly take up the unaccustomed role of acting as an agenda-setter instead

of passive follower in the global arena in party by laying the foundations for our own sustainability as President Chen hinted in his May 20 inaugural speech."

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